



**Department of Energy**  
Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 491  
Vancouver, Washington 98666-0491

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

November 14, 2003

In reply refer to: T-DITT-2

**To: Landowners interested in the SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Echo Lake Line Voltage Increase**

Bonneville Power Administration has received several calls about an increase in substation noise from subdivisions surrounding the SnoKing Substation located in Bothell, Wash. This noise increase appears to be due to a recent voltage increase of the SnoKing to Monroe-Sammamish transmission line (now known as the SnoKing to Monroe-Echo Lake line). This letter provides a brief background on the voltage increase and subsequent steps taken by BPA to respond to noise complaints from adjacent landowners. Included with this letter is all correspondence sent to landowners to date.

**Background**

BPA recently completed the SnoKing Tap Relocation Project in September 2003. This project included constructing a new three-pole steel transmission structure to allow our existing SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Sammamish 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to tap (connect) to our Monroe-Echo Lake 500-kV transmission line. The SnoKing Tap transmission line was constructed in 1970 as a 500-kV line, but had been operated at 230-kV until recently. As a result of the tap relocation project, voltage on the SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Echo Lake line increased from 230-kV to 500-kV on Sept. 29, 2003. An increase in ambient noise levels was anticipated but the level of concern from area residents along the transmission line and in the vicinity of the SnoKing Substation was not.

BPA began an extensive investigation into the SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Echo Lake transmission line including field surveys, magnetic field testing, conductor observation and one-on-one meetings with affected residents. Landowners were notified of these schedule activities and the results of measurements taken. Enclosed with this letter are the following:

- SnoKing public letters:
  - June 23, 2003, SnoKing Tap Relocation Construction Start Letter
  - Oct. 1, 2003, Voltage Increase Response Letter
  - Oct. 9, 2003, Voltage Increase Public Meeting Announcement Letter
  - Oct. 28, 2003, Helicopter Inspection Letter
- Echo Falls Homeowners Association Public Meeting handout
- SnoKing to Monroe-Echo Lake Transmission Line Map

BPA also attended the Echo Falls Homeowners Association meeting on Oct. 23, 2003 to answer questions about the project. As a result, BPA committed to release a 30-day update on our findings and activities to date. This update will be completed and mailed out to area residents by Nov. 23, 2003.

**For More Information**

We will continue to work with area landowners to attempt to address noise concerns. If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please call our toll-free number 1-888-276-7790. You may also access additional information on our Web site at: [http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/). We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Doug Riehl, Nov. 14, 2003*

Doug Riehl  
Project Manager

Enclosures:

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